



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

LISA BONNETT, DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 21, 2013

cc: DWPC/RU  
DWPC/CAS  
MB

**TO:** Region File

**FROM:** Maureen Brehmer, EPE – Des Plaines Office

**SUBJECT:** West Chicago WWTF Reconnaissance Inspection  
NPDES Permit No. IL0023469

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A reconnaissance inspection was conducted at the West Chicago WWTF on November 21, 2013. I had received notification from Tom Getz, CH2M Hill OMI on November 20, 2013 regarding a red WWTF effluent discharging to the West Branch of the DuPage River. Mr. Getz indicated that the red color had entered the facility on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. I questioned whether they had attempted to trace the color back through the system and Mr. Getz stated that they had not.

On November 21, 2013, I toured the facility with Brent Lautenbach, Operator and most of the reddish color had left the facility, most likely helped by the prior night's rainfall. The effluent appeared to be a very light pinkish color. Effluent and influent samples taken on November 20, 2013 were still available in the refrigerator and showed a reddish color. Mr. Lautenbach informed me that he had been at Jel Sert Company on November 19, 2013 at 11:15 AM to take a pretreatment sample and the sample was red and foamy. The reddish color had entered the West Chicago WWTF at approximately 1:00 PM on November 19, 2013. Sue Ruta, CH2M Hill Pretreatment Coordinator had contacted Jel Sert by phone after the plant had turned red and she was informed by Jel Sert that they were not responsible for the reddish color coming into the plant. I discussed the importance of following up with a visual inspection of the sanitary sewer system when there is something that enters the plant that has potential to cause problems. Tom Getz indicated that there is color that enters the facility quite often from Jel Sert and he does not remember it causing problems in the past. CH2M Hill did not notify the City of West Chicago of the reddish discharge until November 20, 2013.

A follow-up IU inspection was conducted at Jel Sert which will be summarized in a separate report.

The City of West Chicago is in violation of the following for pass-through of color at the plant on November 20, 2013:

Title 35, Subtitle C, Chapter 1, Section 302.203.



## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

West Chicago WWTF



Date: 11/21/2013  
Photo by: MB  
Exposure #: 1  
Comments: Red  
influent composite  
sample and  
effluent 001  
sample taken on  
11/20/2013.



Date: 11/21/2013  
Photo by: MB  
Exposure #: 2  
Comments: photo of  
a photo taken by  
OMI of a  
pretreatment  
sample taken at  
Jel Sert on  
11/19/2013





## ***DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS***

West Chicago WWTF



Date: 11/20/2013  
Photo by: OMI  
Exposure #: 3  
Comments: Red  
discharge to West  
Branch of DuPage  
River on  
11/20/2013.



Date: 11/21/2013  
Photo by: MB  
Exposure #: 4  
Comments: very  
slight pinkish  
discharge on  
11/21/2013  
following rainfall.